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ABSTRACT

This report presents findings reported in the follow-up survey of Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) (Virginia) graduates of the class of 1998-99. Graduates were surveyed during the spring of 2000 to determine what jobs they had obtained, which schools they were attending, how much they earned, how satisfied they were with their employment or schooling, and what impact PVCC had upon their careers and education. Highlights include: (1) graduates were very satisfied with the quality of college services--an overwhelming majority of survey respondents were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services (97%) and academic programs (98%) provided by PVCC; (2) nearly one-half believed that their PVCC education had contributed "very much" to their ability to reason logically (50%), research a topic (54%), solve problems (50%), speak clearly and effectively (49%), understand and use computers (57%), understand and use math (49%), and write clearly and effectively (57%); (3) wage earnings were a primary source of financial support for 1998-99 graduates--nearly nine out of ten respondents (89%) were employed while attending PVCC; (4) four of every ten respondents (41%) were enrolled in postsecondary institutions at the time of the survey; and (5) three-quarters of the survey respondents (75%) were employed at the time of the survey. (JA)

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Follow-up Survey of PVCC Graduates Class of 1998-99

Research Report No. 6-2000
December 2000

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PVCC Research Report No. 6-2000
December 2000

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Follow-Up Survey of PVCC Graduates
Of the Class of 1998-99

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Introduction

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) has conducted graduate surveys since 1974, when college officials asked members of the first graduating class to report on what happened to them after graduation. Throughout the years, the surveys have asked questions concerning jobs, career satisfaction, salaries, study at other colleges and universities, and the impact the college has had upon the lives of PVCC graduates. Information from graduation surveys is used to improve academic programs and college services.

This study represents the results of the 24th graduate survey. The survey was conducted for graduates of the class of 1998-99, which includes students graduating from PVCC during Summer Term 1998, Fall Semester 1998, and Spring Semester 1999. The survey instrument was the same used for the graduating classes of 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98 and is included in this study as Appendix A. In terms of format and content, this study is similar to previous graduate studies.

Please note that presentation of survey results in the "Results" section of the study, which follows both the "Findings" and "Conclusion" sections, differs for each question depending upon the type of data obtained. Categorical listings, frequencies, and percentages are provided for nominal data; response frequencies, adjusted percentages, and histograms are provided for ordinal level data; and descriptive statistics, such as the mean, median, and mode, are provided for continuous data.

At the end of the survey, graduates were invited to offer comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of their PVCC experience. Graduates were particularly asked to comment on ways that the college could improve its curriculum and services. These comments are contained in Appendix B.

Methodology

During the spring of 2000, the Office of Institutional Research mailed surveys and cover letters to the 259 graduates of the class of 1998-99. Surveys were mailed approximately seven months after graduation to allow time for the graduates to secure jobs or to enroll in colleges or universities. Those not responding to the initial mailing of the follow-up survey were contacted two additional times.

Of the 259 graduates, 147 returned completed surveys for a response rate of 56.7%. This is considerably better than the response rate of 45.2% for graduate respondents of the class of 1997-98, and the highest response rate of any graduating class since the class of 1987-88.

Table 1: Sex of PVCC Graduates and Survey Respondents

	Graduates		Respondents	
	No	*Pct*	*No*	*Pct*
Male	97	37.5%	45	30.6%
Female	162	62.5%	102	69.4%

As can be seen in Tables 1 through 3, survey respondents of the class of 1998-99 were in most respects similar demographically to all 1998-99 graduates. Although a larger percentage of respondents were female than all graduates, the difference between the two groups was less than 7%. The percentage of minority respondents (11.6%) was identical to the percentage of all minority graduates. In terms of age, survey respondents were on average only

Table 2: Race of PVCC Graduates and Survey Respondents

	Graduates		Respondents	
	No	*Pct*	*No*	*Pct*
White	229	88.4%	130	88.4%
African-American	19	7.3%	12	8.2%
Other Race	11	4.3%	5	3.4%

one-half a year older. These similarities in demographic characteristics, as well as the high response rate, suggest that survey responses are representative of all graduates of the class of 1998-99.

Table 3: Avg. Age of PVCC Graduates and Survey Respondents

Graduates	30.7
Respondents	31.3

Findings

- Graduates were very satisfied with the quality of college services. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (97%) were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services provided by PVCC.
- An overwhelming majority of respondents (97.8%) indicated that they were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of their academic program at PVCC.
- Graduates were pleased with the skills they developed while attending PVCC. Nearly one-half believed that their PVCC education had contributed "very much" to their ability to reason logically (49.7%), research a topic (54.2%), solve problems (50%), speak clearly and effectively (48.6%), understand and use computers (57.3%), understand and use math (49%), and write clearly and effectively (56.6%). Only a few of the remaining respondents believed that their PVCC education did not contribute at all to their ability to reason logically (1.4%), research a topic (1.4%), solve problems (1.8%), speak clearly and effectively (2.4%), understand and use computers (3.5%), understand and use math (3.5%), and write clearly and effectively (2.8%).

- Wage earnings were a primary source of financial support for 1998-99 graduates. Nearly nine out of ten respondents (89.4%) were employed while attending PVCC. Two out of ten respondents (21%) borrowed money to finance their PVCC education. A large number of respondents worked between 10 and 30 hours per week (48.9%), and 21.7% worked 40 or more hours.
- Four of every ten respondents (40.8%) were enrolled in postsecondary institutions at the time of the survey. Most attended public (87.2%), four-year (79.4%) institutions located within the Commonwealth of Virginia (91.3%). In fact, nearly one-half of those attending postsecondary institutions chose to continue their education at The University of Virginia (n=14), James Madison University (n=7), or Old Dominion University (n=7). Nine respondents indicated that they were continuing their education at PVCC.
- Eight out of ten respondents (80%) felt that their bachelor's program was very much or somewhat related to their PVCC degree program. The most popular fields of study were in the areas of business, finance, and accounting.
- Academically, 1998-99 graduates performed quite well at the postsecondary institutions to which they transferred. Enrolled respondents earned a mean grade point average of 3.24 at their respective colleges. The average number of credit hours earned was 29.
- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC. Most respondents (95.6%) believed that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as students who enrolled at transfer institutions as freshmen. Nine out of ten respondents (91.9%) felt that the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

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- Graduates were satisfied with the transfer process. Nearly nine out of ten enrolled respondents (89.6%) indicated that the credits they earned at PVCC transferred as expected. Most respondents (88%) indicated that the institution to which they transferred was their first choice. Most (88.7%) who transferred to public four-year colleges in Virginia were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the transfer process.
- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the quality of transfer assistance received at PVCC. Slightly over one-half of all enrolled respondents (51%) received assistance from PVCC in transferring to their current college. Of those who received assistance, approximately eight out of ten rated the quality of assistance they received from academic advisors (77.8%), their academic programs (81.5%), and faculty (81.5%) as either excellent or good.
- Three-quarters of the survey respondents (74.8%) were employed at the time of the survey, and of these, nearly three-quarters (73.2%) worked full time. Nearly three-quarters (72.5%) also indicated that their current jobs were related to their fields of study at PVCC.
- Graduates were employed in a wide range of occupations. Four of ten graduate respondents (38.8%) indicated they were employed in professional specialty occupations; nearly one-quarter (24.3%) were employed in administrative support jobs; and over ten percent (12.6%) were employed as technicians. Nearly nine out of ten survey respondents (88.9%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current jobs, and six out of ten (56.9%) planned to pursue their current jobs as long-range careers.
- For the most part, 1998-99 graduates felt that PVCC provided them with the tools necessary to be effective in the workplace. Almost all respondents (99.1%) felt that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as others beginning careers in their job field. Nine

out of ten respondents (88.7%) indicated that the academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

- Attending PVCC had a positive impact on the job prospects and earnings of many 1997-98 graduates. Over one-half of all respondents (52.4%) felt that their degree from PVCC helped them to obtain their current job, and one-third (33.3%) believed that their degree helped them to obtain a promotion in their current job. The average annual salary earned by employed respondents was $32,284. On average, respondents estimated that their salaries would have been $9,987 lower if they had not attended PVCC.

Conclusions

Information provided by 1998-99 graduate survey respondents was in most respects similar to that provided by graduates from previous classes. Typically, most graduates are employed in jobs related to their study at PVCC or enrolled in four-year colleges or universities. While survey respondents each year offer many helpful suggestions to improve academic programs and college services, most are pleased with the education they receive at PVCC. Respondents from the graduating class of 1998-99 were no exception. The two following comments from 1998-99 graduate survey respondents illustrate graduate satisfaction with PVCC.

> PVCC was a wonderful school. The teachers would meet with you, get to know you, and work with you until you understood. I feel that the education I received at PVCC was much higher quality than now at UVa.

> I am not very objective when it comes to PVCC. In fact, I am rather biased. It is an outstanding school with many excellent teachers. I have attended PVCC over a number of years and the outstanding quality has remained constant.

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Survey Results

Section I: PVCC Experience

1. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following college services provided by PVCC?

a. Career services

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	44	29.9	**********
Somewhat	39	26.5	**********
Very little	10	6.8	***
Not at all	5	3.4	*
Not applicable	44	29.9	**********
No response	5	3.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

b. Computing Lab

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	77	52.4	**********
Somewhat	47	32.0	**********
Very little	6	4.1	**
Not at all	1	0.7	
Not applicable	13	8.8	****
No response	3	2.0	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

c. Financial aid

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	52	35.4	**********
Somewhat	16	10.9	****
Very little	12	8.2	***
Not at all	6	4.1	**
Not applicable	57	38.8	**********
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

d. Learning Center

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	64	43.5	**********
Somewhat	48	32.7	**********
Very little	10	6.8	***
Not at all	1	0.7	
Not applicable	21	14.3	******
No response	3	2.0	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

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e. Library services

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	83	56.5	**********
Somewhat	52	35.4	**********
Very little	3	2.0	*
Not at all	0	0.0	
Not applicable	5	3.4	*
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

f. Personal counseling

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	50	34.0	**********
Somewhat	38	25.9	**********
Very little	21	14.3	******
Not at all	6	4.1	**
Not applicable	27	18.4	*******
No response	5	3.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

g. Registration services

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	77	52.4	**********
Somewhat	52	35.4	**********
Very little	10	6.8	***
Not at all	3	2.0	*
Not applicable	4	2.7	*
No response	1	0.7	
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

h. Student activities

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	33	22.4	**********
Somewhat	36	24.5	**********
Very little	17	11.6	*****
Not at all	8	5.4	**
Not applicable	51	34.7	**********
No response	2	1.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

2 Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of college services provided by PVCC?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	86	58.5	**********
Somewhat	46	31.3	**********
Very little	4	2.7	*
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	11	7.5	***
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

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3. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following aspects of your academic program?

a. Academic advising

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	67	45.6	**********
Somewhat	56	38.1	********
Very little	16	10.9	***
Not at all	6	4.1	*
No response	2	1.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

b. Course availability

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	80	54.4	**********
Somewhat	57	38.8	********
Very little	9	6.1	*
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	1	0.7	
TOTAL	147	100.0	
			0 50 100

c. Course materials

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	94	63.9	**********
Somewhat	46	31.3	********
Very little	6	4.1	*
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	1	0.7	
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

d. Faculty

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	110	74.8	**********
Somewhat	36	24.5	********
Very little	1	0.7	
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	0	0.0	
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

e. Grading

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	116	78.9	**********
Somewhat	30	20.4	********
Very little	0	0.0	
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	1	0.7	
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

f. Instruction

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	111	75.5	**********
Somewhat	34	23.1	********
Very little	0	0.0	
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	2	1.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

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g. Learning environment

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	100	68.0	**********
Somewhat	41	27.9	**********
Very little	1	0.7	
Not at all	1	0.7	
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

4. To what extent were you satisfied with your relationship with faculty outside of class?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	87	59.2	**********
Somewhat	41	27.9	**********
Very little	9	6.1	**
Not at all	1	0.7	
No response	9	6.1	**
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

5. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of your academic program at FVCC?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	101	68.7	**********
Somewhat	36	24.5	**********
Very little	3	2.0	*
Not at all	0	0.0	
No response	7	4.8	**
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

6. To what extent did your FVCC education contribute to your ability to

a Reason logically

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	72	49.0	**********
Somewhat	56	38.1	**********
Very little	15	10.2	****
Not at all	2	1.4	*
No response	2	1.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

b Research a topic

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	78	53.1	**********
Somewhat	51	34.7	**********
Very little	13	8.8	****
Not at all	2	1.4	*
No response	3	2.0	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

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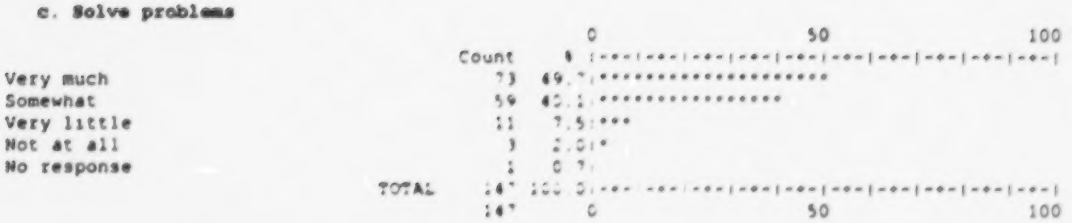
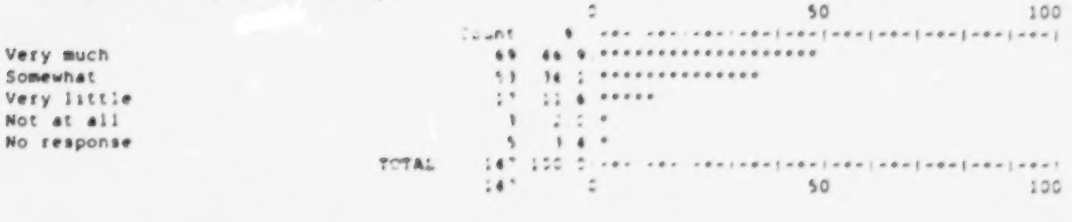
c. Solve problems



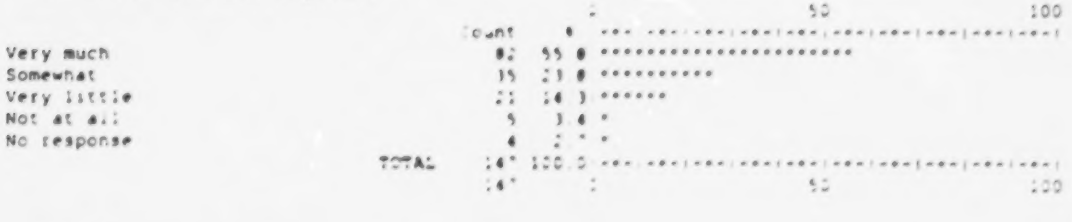
	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	73	49.7	**********
Somewhat	59	40.1	********
Very little	11	7.5	**
Not at all	3	2.0	*
No response	1	0.7	
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

d. Speak clearly & effectively



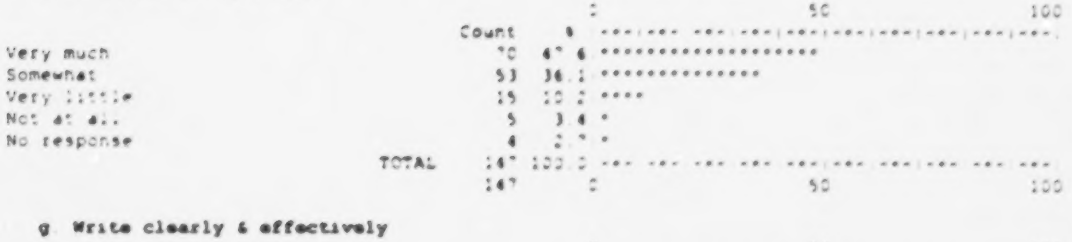
	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	69	46.9	**********
Somewhat	53	36.1	********
Very little	17	11.6	**
Not at all	3	2.0	*
No response	5	3.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

e. Understand & use computers



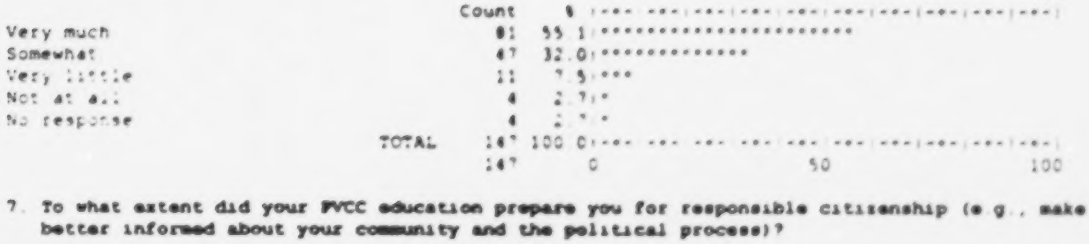
	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	82	55.8	**********
Somewhat	35	23.8	*****
Very little	21	14.3	***
Not at all	5	3.4	*
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

f. Understand & use math



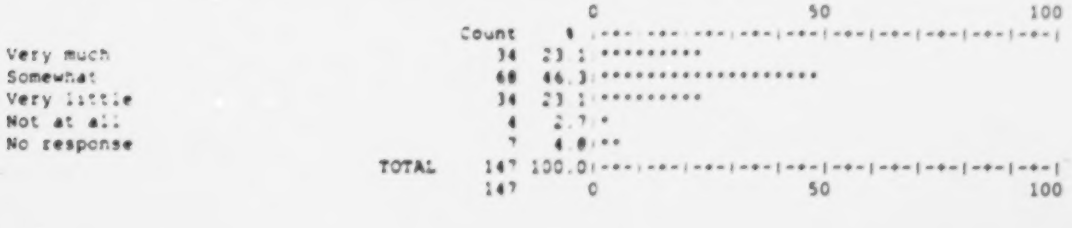
	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	70	47.6	**********
Somewhat	53	36.1	********
Very little	15	10.2	**
Not at all	5	3.4	*
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

g. Write clearly & effectively



	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	81	55.1	**********
Somewhat	47	32.0	*******
Very little	11	7.5	**
Not at all	4	2.7	*
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

7. To what extent did your FVCC education prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g., make you better informed about your community and the political process)?



	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	34	23.1	*****
Somewhat	68	46.3	**********
Very little	34	23.1	*****
Not at all	4	2.7	*
No response	7	4.8	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

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8. Were you employed while attending PVCC?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	127	86.4	**********
No	15	10.2	****
No response	5	3.4	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

9. If yes, how many hours per week on average did you work?

	Count	%	0 50 100
01 to 10 hours	8	5.4	**
11 to 20 hours	26	17.7	*******
21 to 30 hours	37	25.2	**********
31 to 40 hours	30	20.4	********
41 to 50 hours	27	18.4	*******
Over 50 hours	1	0.7	
No response	18	12.2	*****
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

10. Did you borrow money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending PVCC?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	30	20.4	********
No	113	76.9	**********
No response	4	2.7	*
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

11. If yes, how much did you borrow?

	Count	%	0 50 100
$ 1 - $1,000	5	3.4	*
$1,001 - $2,000	11	7.5	***
$2,001 - $3,000	2	1.4	*
$3,001 - $4,000	3	2.0	*
$4,001 - $5,000	1	0.7	
Over $5,000	4	2.7	*
No response	121	82.3	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

Section II Further Education

1. Are you currently enrolled in college?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	63	42.9	**********
No	75	51.0	**********
No response	9	6.1	**
TOTAL	147	100.0	
			0 50 100

2. If not, do you have plans to enroll during the coming year?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	32	21.8	********
No	39	26.5	**********
No response	76	51.7	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

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3. Are you attending college full-time or part-time?

		Count	%	0 50 100
Full-time		41	27.9	**********
Part-time		22	15.0	******
No response		84	57.1	**********
	TOTAL	147	100.0	
		147		0 50 100

4. What type of college are you attending?

a. Two-year or four-year?

		Count	%	0 50 100
2-year		10	6.8	***
4-year		50	34.0	**********
No response		84	57.1	**********
	TOTAL	147	100.0	
		144		0 50 100

b. Public or private?

		Count	%	0 50 100
Public		41	27.9	**********
Private		6	4.1	**
No response		100	68.0	**********
	TOTAL	147	100.0	
		147		0 50 100

c. In-state or out-of-state?

		Count	%	0 50 100
In-state		42	28.6	**********
Out-of-state		4	2.7	*
No response		101	68.7	**********
	TOTAL	147	100.0	
		147		0 50 100

5. What college are you attending? *(see individual surveys)*

6. Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree?

		Count	%	0 50 100
Yes		51	34.7	**********
No		12	8.2	***
No response		84	57.1	**********
	TOTAL	147	100.0	
		147		0 50 100

7. If not, what is your primary purpose for attending college?

		Count	%	0 50 100
Personal interest		2	1.4	*
Professional development		10	6.8	***
Pursue a graduate degree		2	1.4	*
Satisfy a work requirement		0	0.0	
Other		3	2.0	*
No response		130	88.4	**********
	TOTAL	147	100.0	
		147		0 50 100

8. What is your major field of study? *(see individual surveys)*

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9. How many credit hours have you earned at your new college?

Variable	Mean	Std.Dev.	Variance	Std Error of mean	Coeff of variation
Credit Hours	29.4111	24.7366	611.901	3.68752	84.1064

Minimum	Maximum	Range	Total
3.00000	115.00000	112.00000	1323.50

Median	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis
24.0000	15.00000	1.70248	5.72514

10. What is your current grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)?

Variable	Mean	Std.Dev.	Variance	Std Error of mean	Coeff of variation
Grade Point Avg.	3.24091	0.424553	0.180246	0.0640038	13.0998

Minimum	Maximum	Range	Total
2.40000	4.00000	1.60000	142.600

Median	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis
3.20000	3.00000	0.00931964	2.10978

11. To what extent is your bachelor's degree related to your FVCC degree program?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	20	13.6	*****
Somewhat	20	13.6	*****
Very little	6	4.1	**
Not at all	4	2.7	*
No response	97	66.0	*************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

12 To what extent did your FVCC degree program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	27	18.4	*******
Somewhat	20	13.6	*****
Very little	1	0.7	
Not at all	1	0.7	
No response	98	66.7	*************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

13 Compared to students who started at your new school as freshmen, do you feel:

	Count	%	0 50 100
Better prepared	26	17.7	*******
About as well prepared	18	12.2	*****
Less well prepared	2	1.4	*
No response	101	68.7	*************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	
			0 50 100

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14. In relation to your current studies, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	21	14.3	******
Good	24	16.3	*******
Fair	4	2.7	*
Poor	0	0.0	
No response	98	66.7	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

15. For each of the following aspects of college environment, please indicate whether PVCC has more,less, or about the same of a given aspect as your current college.

a. Degree of student competitiveness

	Count	%	0 50 100
PVCC has more	5	3.4	*
About the same	21	14.3	******
PVCC has less	26	17.7	********
No response	95	64.6	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

b. Friendliness of faculty and staff

	Count	%	0 50 100
PVCC has more	22	15.0	******
About the same	28	19.0	********
PVCC has less	3	2.0	*
No response	94	63.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

c. Individual attention shown to students

	Count	%	0 50 100
PVCC has more	25	17.0	*******
About the same	24	16.3	*******
PVCC has less	4	2.7	*
No response	94	63.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

d. Quality of instruction

	Count	%	0 50 100
PVCC has more	9	6.1	**
About the same	36	24.5	**********
PVCC has less	9	6.1	**
No response	93	63.3	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

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e. Strictness of grading practices

	Count	%	0 ... 50 ... 100
PVCC has more	11	7.5	***
About the same	25	17.0	*******
PVCC has less	15	10.2	****
No response	96	65.3	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

16. Did the credits you earned at PVCC transfer as you expected they would?

	Count	%	0 ... 50 ... 100
Yes	43	29.3	**********
No	5	3.4	*
No response	99	67.3	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

17. How many credits, if any, were not accepted by your current college?

Variable	Mean	Std.Dev	Variance	Std Error of mean	Coeff of variation
Credits not Accept	9.11765	7.02569	49.3603	1.70398	77.0559

Minimum	Maximum	Range	Total
2.00000	33.00000	31.00000	155.000

Median	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis
8.00000	6.00000	2.43186	9.15254

18 Which courses were not accepted? (see individual surveys)

19 Was the college to which you transferred your

	Count	%	0 ... 50 ... 100
First choice	44	29.9	**********
Second choice	5	3.4	*
Third choice	0	0.0	
None of the above	1	0.7	
No response	97	66.0	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

20 If you transferred to a public 4-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?

	Count	%	0 ... 50 ... 100
Very much	31	21.1	********
Somewhat	8	5.4	**
Very little	4	2.7	*
Not at all	1	0.7	
No response	103	70.1	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 ... 50 ... 100

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21. Did you receive assistance from FVCC in transferring to your current college?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	26	17.7	*******
No	25	17.0	*******
No response	96	65.3	**************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	

22. If yes, please rate the quality of assistance you received from each of the following sources:

a. Academic advising

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	16	10.9	****
Good	5	3.4	*
Fair	4	2.7	*
Poor	1	0.7	
Not applicable	1	0.7	
No response	120	81.6	**********************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	

b. Academic program

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	15	10.2	****
Good	7	4.8	**
Fair	2	1.4	*
Poor	1	0.7	
Not applicable	2	1.4	*
No response	120	81.6	**********************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	

c. Faculty

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	17	11.6	*****
Good	5	3.4	*
Fair	3	2.0	*
Poor	0	0.0	
Not applicable	2	1.4	*
No response	120	81.6	**********************************
TOTAL	147	100.0	

Section III Employment

1. Are you currently employed?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	110	74.8	*********************************
No	26	17.7	*******
No response	11	7.5	***
TOTAL	147	100.0	

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2. If not, are you seeking employment?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	13	8.8	****
No	20	13.6	*****
No response	114	77.6	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

3. Are you employed full-time or part-time?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Full-time	82	55.8	**********
Part-time	30	20.4	********
No response	35	23.8	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

4. On average, how many hours per week do you work?

	Count	%	0 50 100
01 to 10 hours	8	5.4	**
11 to 20 hours	6	4.1	**
21 to 30 hours	10	6.8	***
31 to 40 hours	48	32.7	**********
41 to 50 hours	38	25.9	**********
Over 50 hours	2	1.4	*
No response	35	23.8	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

5. What is your occupation? *(see individual surveys)*

6. Which of the following occupational groups best describes the type of work you do?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Administrative support	25	17.0	*******
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing	2	1.4	*
Executive/Administrator/Mgr.	8	5.4	**
Marketing/Sales	4	2.7	*
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	0	0.0	
Precision/Production/Craft	3	2.0	*
Professional specialty worker	40	27.2	**********
Service workers	8	5.4	**
Technicians	13	8.8	****
No response	44	29.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

7. To what extent is your FVCC degree program related to your current occupation?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	50	34.0	**********
Somewhat	32	21.8	*********
Very little	18	12.2	*****
Not at all	13	8.8	****
No response	34	23.1	*********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

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8. To what extent do skills acquired in your PVCC degree program help you perform in the workplace?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very much	53	36.1	**********
Somewhat	40	27.2	**********
Very little	12	8.2	***
Not at all	4	2.7	*
No response	38	25.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

9. Compared to other employees beginning their careers in your job field, do you feel:

	Count	%	0 50 100
Better prepared	57	38.8	**********
About as well prepared	48	32.7	**********
Less well prepared	1	0.7	
No response	41	27.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

10. In relation to your present job, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	41	27.9	**********
Good	53	36.1	**********
Fair	12	8.2	***
Poor	0	0.0	
No response	41	27.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
	147		0 50 100

11. Who is your employer? *(see individual surveys)*

12. May we contact your employer to conduct an employer follow-up survey?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	61	41.5	**********
No	41	27.9	**********
No response	45	30.6	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
			0 50 100

13. What is your exact job title? *(see individual surveys)*

14. Would you say that your job is:

	Count	%	0 50 100
Very satisfying	45	30.6	**********
Satisfying	51	34.7	**********
Not very satisfying	9	6.1	**
Unsatisfying	3	2.0	*
No response	39	26.5	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	
			0 50 100

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15. Do you intend to pursue your current job as a long-term career?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	58	39.5	**********
No	44	29.9	**********
No response	45	30.6	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

16. When did you obtain your current job?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Before attending PVCC	21	14.3	******
While attending PVCC	36	24.5	**********
After attending PVCC	51	34.7	**********
No response	39	26.5	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

17. Did your degree from PVCC help you obtain your present job?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	55	37.4	**********
No	50	34.0	**********
No response	42	28.6	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

18. Has your degree helped you obtain a promotion in your present job?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	34	23.1	*********
No	68	46.3	**********
No response	45	30.6	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

19 Did you participate in PVCC's Co-op program?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	25	17.0	*******
No	81	55.1	**********
No response	41	27.9	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

20. Did you receive career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining your present job?

	Count	%	0 50 100
Yes	7	4.8	**
No	100	68.0	**********
No response	40	27.2	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

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21. If yes, please rate the quality of career placement assistance you received from each of the following sources:

a. Academic program

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	5	3.4	*
Good	1	0.7	
Fair	1	0.7	
Poor	0	0.0	
Not applicable	6	4.1	**
No response	134	91.2	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

b. Career services

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	4	2.7	*
Good	2	1.4	*
Fair	1	0.7	
Poor	0	0.0	
Not applicable	6	4.1	**
No response	134	91.2	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

c. Co-op program

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	3	2.0	*
Good	1	0.7	
Fair	1	0.7	
Poor	0	0.0	
Not applicable	7	4.8	**
No response	135	91.8	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

d. Faculty

	Count	%	0 50 100
Excellent	6	4.1	**
Good	2	1.4	*
Fair	0	0.0	
Poor	0	0.0	
Not applicable	5	3.4	*
No response	134	91.2	**********
TOTAL	147	100.0	

22. What is your annual salary?

Variable	Mean	Std.Dev.	Variance	Std Error of mean	Coeff of variation
Annual Salary	32283.5	50814.4	2582107533	5544.31	157.400

Minimum	Maximum	Range	Total
900.00000	480000.00000	479100.00000	2711818.00

Median	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis
30000.0	30000.00000	8.27344	73.4954

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23. What would you estimate your annual salary to be if you had not attended PVCC?

Variable	Mean	Std.Dev.	Variance	Std Error of mean	Coeff of variation
Estimated Salary	22297.0	10853.3	117794880	1279.08	48.6762

Minimum	Maximum	Range	Total
3000.00000	68000.00000	65000.00000	1605385.00

Median	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis
20000.0	20000.00000	1.41523	6.57263

***Section IV: Comments & Suggestions** (see individual surveys)*

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Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Piedmont Virginia Community College
Follow-up Survey of Graduates for the Class of 1996-97

Instructions Please check the appropriate box(es) for each question and answer all questions that apply to you. This information will be treated as strictly confidential with answers being combined for group analysis.

Graduate: *[Graduate Name]* Student ID: *[Graduate SSN]*

Section I: PVCC Experience

1. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following college services provided by PVCC?

	Very much	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Not applicable
Career services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Computing Lab	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Financial aid	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Learning Center	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Registration services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of college services provided by PVCC?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

3. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following aspects of your academic program?

	Very much	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all
Academic advising	☐	☐	☐	☐
Course availability	☐	☐	☐	☐
Course materials	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty	☐	☐	☐	☐
Grading	☐	☐	☐	☐
Instruction	☐	☐	☐	☐
Learning environment	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. To what extent were you satisfied with your relationship with faculty outside of class?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

5. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of your academic program at PVCC?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

6. To what extent did your PVCC education contribute to your ability to

	Very much	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all
Reason logically	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research a topic	☐	☐	☐	☐
Solve problems	☐	☐	☐	☐
Speak clearly & effectively	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understand & use computers	☐	☐	☐	☐
Understand & use math	☐	☐	☐	☐
Write clearly & effectively	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. To what extent did your PVCC education prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g., make you better informed about your community and the political process)?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

(Continued on back)

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8. Were you employed while attending PVCC? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. If yes, how many hours per week on average did you work?
☐ 1 to 10 hours ☐ 31 to 40 hours
☐ 11 to 20 hours ☐ 41 to 50 hours
☐ 21 to 30 hours ☐ Over 50 hours

10. Did you borrow money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending PVCC?
☐ Yes ☐ No

11. If yes, how much did you borrow?
☐ $ 1 - $1,000 ☐ $3,001 - $4,000
☐ $1,001 - $2,000 ☐ $4,001 - $5,000
☐ $2,001 - $3,000 ☐ Over $5,000

Section II: Further Education

1. Are you currently enrolled in college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If not, do you have plans to enroll during the coming year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If not currently enrolled in college, skip to Section III: Employment)

3. Are you attending college full-time or part-time? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

4. What type of college are you attending? ***(Please check one from each column)***
☐ 2-year ☐ Public ☐ In-state
☐ 4-year ☐ Private ☐ Out-of-state
☐ Other _____
(Please list)

5. What college are you attending? _____

6. Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. If not, what is your primary purpose for attending college?
☐ Personal interest
☐ Professional development
☐ Pursue a graduate degree
☐ Satisfy a work requirement
☐ Other _____
(Please list)

(If not currently pursuing a bachelor's degree, skip to Section III: Employment)

8. What is your major field of study? _____

9. How many credit hours have you earned at your new college? _____

10. What is your current grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)? _____

11. To what extent is your bachelor's degree related to your PVCC degree program?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

12. To what extent did your PVCC degree program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

13. Compared to students who started at your new school as freshmen, do you feel:
☐ Better prepared ☐ About as well prepared ☐ Less well prepared

14. In relation to your current studies, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

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15. For each of the following aspects of college environment, please indicate whether PVCC has more, less, or about the same of a given aspect as your current college.

	PVCC has more	About the same	PVCC has less
Degree of student competitiveness	☐	☐	☐
Friendliness of faculty and staff	☐	☐	☐
Individual attention shown to students	☐	☐	☐
Quality of instruction	☐	☐	☐
Strictness of grading practices	☐	☐	☐

16. Did the credits you earned at PVCC transfer as you expected they would? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. How many credits, if any, were not accepted by your current college?_____

18. Which courses were not accepted? _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

19. Was the college to which you transferred your: ☐ First choice ☐ Third choice ☐ Second choice ☐ None of the above

20. If you transferred to a public 4-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

21. Did you receive assistance from PVCC in transferring to your current college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

22. If yes, please rate the quality of assistance you received from each of the following sources:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Applicable
Academic advising	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Academic program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section III: Employment

1. Are you currently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If not, are you seeking employment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If not currently employed, please skip to Section IV: Comments & Suggestions)

3. Are you employed full-time or part-time? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

4. On average, how many hours per week do you work? ☐ 1 to 10 hours ☐ 11 to 20 hours ☐ 21 to 30 hours ☐ 31 to 40 hours ☐ 41 to 50 hours ☐ Over 50 hours

5. What is your current occupation?_____

6. Which of the following occupational groups best describes the type of work you do?

☐ Administrative support
☐ Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing
☐ Executive/Administrator/Manager
☐ Marketing/Sales
☐ Operators/Fabricators/Laborers
☐ Precision/Production/Craft/Repair
☐ Professional specialty workers
☐ Service workers
☐ Technicians

7. To what extent is your PVCC degree program related to your current occupation?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

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8. To what extent do skills acquired in your PVCC degree program help you perform in the workplace?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

9. Compared to other employees beginning their careers in your job field, do you feel
☐ Better prepared ☐ About as well prepared ☐ Less well prepared

10. In relation to your present job, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

11. Who is your employer? _____

12. May we contact your employer to conduct an employer follow-up survey? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If yes, please remember to complete, sign, and return the enclosed Contact Authorization Form)

13 What is your exact job title? _____

14 Would you say that your job is
☐ Very Satisfying ☐ Satisfying ☐ Not very satisfying ☐ Unsatisfying

15 Do you intend to pursue your current job as a long-term career? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16 When did you obtain your current job?
☐ Before attending PVCC ☐ While attending PVCC ☐ After attending PVCC

17 Did your degree from PVCC help you obtain your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18 Has your degree helped you obtain a promotion in your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

19 Did you participate in PVCC's Co-op program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

20 Did you receive career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

21 If yes, please rate the quality of career placement assistance you received from each of the following sources

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Applicable
Academic program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Career services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Co-op program	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Faculty	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

22 What is your annual salary?_____

23 What would you estimate your annual salary to be if you had not attended PVCC?_____

Section IV: Comments & Suggestions

In the space provided, please express comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of your PVCC experience. We are particularly interested in how we can improve our curriculum and services. Thank you for your participation.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Appendix B: Graduate Comments

I really enjoyed my experience at Piedmont. I met my husband there!

PVCC has the best computing equipment but its use is so limited. There should be more hours scheduled. Students should be more exposed to use today's technology for academics. Library hours should improve.

The Financial Analysis Degree Program was wonderful and has made me so much more prepared for my current job than others who start in the same position. I wouldn't be where I am now without Piedmont. Thanks.

I was very pleased with my experience at PVCC. The faculty was great. Maybe some day I'll take more classes for fun this time.

The only aspect I would improve is not using inexperienced staff, i.e. grad students, to teach summer school – they were not prepared but the regular Piedmont teachers were very good!!

I felt I had a great education from PVCC. I was a stay-at-home mom while attending PVCC and I worked part time. I plan to pursue my bachelor's degree this fall.

More hours of courses (availability of courses should be improved). Some courses are only offered during the day while some are only offered at night.

I was very happy to be a graduate of PVCC. There was an excellent program of study, a dedicated and caring staff, and a warm, friendly environment.

I was somewhat disappointed to find that the math courses taken as part of an AS at PVCC wouldn't transfer to ODU (not listed in the transfer credits in the Virginia Community College System course book). Other than that PVCC was very good.

The Nursing Program was excellent. Only areas that I would improve on would be to create a more realistic approach to what nursing is on the outside. Example: In your last semester, have the student take and manage five patients instead of one or two.

The faculty who instructed me was extremely helpful, supportive, interested, and inspired me to perform well in school and become a different person. In particular Physics Instructor [name of instructor], English instructor [name of instructor], computer course instructor [name of instructor], just to name a few. Excellent teachers with a good level of personal commitment to students' success.

The only bad experience at PVCC was in my first Humanities in the early 1990s. [Name of professor] was course professor (s/he was great!), but [name of professor] taught in that class – paintings and sculpture. S/he ignored me the first time I asked a question, the second time I asked, s/he humiliated me in class for my question. I had asked for a specific, verbal definition of "classicism." S/he refused to answer me, stating, "If there were a developmental class in humanities, I should take it." I was totally embarrassed. There were about 50 people in the class.

([Name of professor] had taken our class on a field trip to the Bayley Art Museum and showed us paintings depicting "classicism." I was there and looked at the paintings, but still didn't quite get what was meant by "classicism.") So the next class night, I raised my hand and asked. S/he was very angry with me for asking that question. S/he ignored me the first time I asked.

So I raised my hand again and asked again. S/he was very nasty and angry and that's why s/he told me, I guess, "to take a developmental class in humanities." [Name of professor] was completely out of line for saying that. S/he definitely was not professional or mature.

Job listed above (waiter) does not related to my degree from Piedmont. I did not receive job based on my degree.

The work that I did at PVCC has prepared me for the work that I am not doing in 4-year college. The PVCC program gave me confidence, and the instructors were very knowledgeable and encouraging. Perhaps some improvements might be longer computer lab and library access hours. One other suggestion might be the organization of intramural sport leagues or other activities to bring students together.

I took the Computer Repair Course and think that the electrical part of the requirement was the hardest, most irrelevant course I've ever taken. The teacher was smart but not prepared for basic training of pupils. I felt I learned nothing and hope future students can forego this unnecessary course.

PVCC was a wonderful school. The teachers would meet with you, get to know you, and work with you until you understood. I feel that the education I received at PVCC was much higher quality than now at UVa.

–The nursing instructors play favorites in the clinical setting.
–The nursing program needs to have the same grading scale as the college.
–All clinical settings should provide each student with at least three patients.
–Nursing program should offer public health practicum.

Piedmont was a great place for me. After awhile there, it helped me grow and mature. Most of my teachers went out of the way to help me. There were some though who couldn't care less what you did or if you were there. [Name of instructor] was the worst I had. My recently retired counselor was a lifesaver to me. The computer lab was pretty good and the outdoor veranda and indoor video games provided much needed stress relief and relaxation. The only thing I would ask is for more computer class options, both in variety and number of spots available.

I would like to say that [name of professor] and [name of professor] are, hands down, the best instructors I have ever had in any school. They both show an interest in the student and teach in a way that the student can learn and not made to feel out of place if something wasn't understood in class. Please relay these remarks to the instructors and Dean of PVCC. I have also recently moved to the state of Michigan and am not currently employed by a company that uses the training I received from PVCC.

My overall satisfaction with PVCC is excellent. Every instructor I had (except one) was very knowledgeable about the subject matter and was willing to give each student as much extra attention and assistance as necessary. The affordability of PVCC is also a big plus.

PVCC is an excellent school. I particularly enjoy the convenient hours you offer for your classes. You offer a number of classes at night which enables the students to work in the day. Also, I am pleased that you offer a large number of courses in the summer.

I was very pleased with my experience at PVCC.

After attending Piedmont I transferred to Virginia Tech and completed my B.S. and then finished my M.S. Attending Piedmont was a great experience.

The art department needed more up to date computer graphics instruction; i.e., Adobe, Quark, Photo Express. The most beneficial classes for me at PVCC (in terms of relating to my Longwood courses) were Biology, Sociology, History 122, and American Literature. The requirements of those courses (lots of writing practice, research, etc.) prepared me for the mounds of writing assignments at Longwood. The transfer process was top-notch! It was a smooth transition to Longwood.

You have helped me with two careers. For 15 years, I worked in medical statistics/health planning and was promoted twice as a direct result of PVCC coursework. My final salary was $28,000 annually. I also obtained an associate in biology and took most of the horticulture classes which enabled me to garden for a living—which I prefer. All of my coursework was at PVCC.

I had a good time – good learning experience. [Name of counselor] was wonderful in trying to help with transferring to UVa. I was attending PVCC on and off for five years before anyone told me that I should be in a degree program – what it was and why. Five years! I would rate that as very unsatisfying. Other than that I had a good experience at PVCC and it has provided a base to build upon at UVa.

I took several accounting classes when I worked as a Finance Manager.

If possible, a Microsoft SQL Server 7.0 Information Technology class would be a great class to add.

[Name of IST instructor] and [name of IST instructor] were two of my teachers, and they did an outstanding job.

It would be excellent if your academic computing lab were open on Sundays.

There were several teachers at PVCC (names of five professors) that impacted me greater than any other teachers in my life. They encouraged questions and fostered understanding. PVCC's faculty is their strong point (among others) and I will always be grateful for the education and incredible faculty I had while I was there.

I am not very objective when it comes to PVCC. In fact, I am rather biased. It is an outstanding school with many excellent teachers. I have attended PVCC over a number of years and the outstanding quality has remained constant.

I am a 17-year government employee. While attending PVCC I moved from a non-professional job series to a professional job series. I am now on the road to a full-performance GS-12. My PVCC degree was not the determining factor but it certainly did help in my securing my current position.

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(1) Delay in bookstore receiving texts needed prior to classes starting.
(2) Not having classes like pharmacology in summer session due to cutbacks.

In my opinion, if a public speaking course wee required for the completion of the General Studies curriculum then the General Studies program would be stronger and more challenging.

Provision for better students to receive credit for work completed.

Better coordination with 4-year colleges.

I am very pleased that I selected PVCC to prepare for the university. All of my instructors at PVCC were terrific! [Name of counselor] was most helpful with the transfer process and helping me plan my courses needed for the commerce school. The competitive environment at UVa is much stronger but I do feel prepared and my first semester grades would reflect this. Thanks PVCC!!

I actually had a four year degree first from James Madison University and went back to school to change my career. I finished at PVCC and had fulfilled the requirements to sit for the CPA exam in November 1999. I passed all four parts on the first try. I am *very* satisfied with my education received from PVCC.

This last question (#23) [on the survey form] is ridiculous. Change it to: "What would you be doing (working) if you hadn't attended PVCC?" The salary part [on the survey form] is a bad idea. I only work to make grocery and bill money. I have side jobs, not anything I'm going to pursue—many other people are in the same boat. Also, explain "course materials" [on the survey form]. Do you mean textbooks or what? Most people aren't going to say they're satisfied with those.

Your institution and the faculty provided me with excellent training and refresher skills enhancement. Because I have not been able to obtain a satisfying career position reflects in no way on PVCC. The right opportunity just hasn't come along for my skills, activities and growth.

I'm sure I'm the exception to the rule, but I experienced man "snafus" with paperwork at PVCC. Two examples among the many were the registrar's office losing my request o mail transcript to VA Board of Nursing and correspondence from the nursing program office that was never received. By the end of my program at PVCC, I actually started to feel jinxed because no one else seemed to experience such problems with such regularity.

I have attended Piedmont in order to fulfill the requirements to take the CPA exam. I will take the test this coming May. Piedmont is a very good community college, though some classes were not offered in the evenings and I could not take them during the day. Secondly, one class that I wanted to take was always listed but cancelled because of lack of participants. I'll keep trying though. Thanks.

The only big difference is the aspect of group work. At UVa, there is a lot of group work that I was not prepared for. Also the workload is a lot more at UVa that I somewhat expected but wish I would have been used to from PVCC. However, PVCC was a great place to learn and I am glad I attended here my first two years of college.

Overall, everything worked out well in my degree of study so I say the nursing program is excellent and keep up the good work.

PVCC is a great place. The buildings are starting to need some maintenance/paint. The maintenance pickup trucks should not be parked in front of the building on the grass. They should be in the third lot and hidden.

PVCC is a great institution. However, to be most effective in the sciences more money and space is needed to effectively teach chemistry and biology. The chemistry department is due a *significant* infusion of funding, since they have been allowed to run down from lack of financial backing.

There was a lot of transition while I was enrolled in the nursing program at PVCC. Some classes and instructors were very organized and informative and some were very disappointing. The general education classes were excellent and the staff was very competent and friendly. Overall, I was very satisfied with my educational experience at PVCC.

Provide advising for new students. New students need to know about courses they need in order to pursue further education after the 2 years at Piedmont. Packets from other institutions could be provided for students to see what courses are required.

Overall, education and teachers were good but the advisors and counselors need to learn to help students rather than blow them off.

Even though I am not now working in the field that I studied at PVCC I still found the entire course of study personally rewarding and fulfilling.

Advisement counselors need more time to deal with helping students. I ended up taking things that would not transfer, so it took me longer and cost more. The counselors do not seem to be familiar with the classes and often didn't seem to care what I *needed*. They just listened to what I *wanted* and signed the card. Overall, PVCC is an excellent school!!

I received no assistance from my staff advisor and was very dissatisfied with having to track her down for assistance and then she wasn't very willing to help.

Orientation and physical education should not be requirements for graduation. For me, the orientation class was more of a hindrance than help.

PVCC should continue providing cultural activities to the students (concerts, plays, art exhibits).

I had several new teachers during my last semester who were terrible. They did not know how to teach and the grades in comparison to my past grades (as well as other students in class) reflect these concerns [English instructor and Bio lab instructor]. The woman in registration window is *very* rude! The library books need to be updated. Lunch room prices are too high.

I loved all of my professors at PVCC. The only complaint that I have has to do with transfer credits. MBC-ADP didn't accept most of my credits that I took at PVCC. I think that there should be more help from counselors to make sure that students take classes that will transfer.

I loved my time at PVCC. Small classes and great teachers.

Overall, PVCC was an excellent expenence for me and I received a quality education. However, I feel the computer lab often made it difficult to find an available computer. Often a large number of computers were blocked from general use, where only a few were made available for those who needed one. Also, I feel more emphasis should be put on how to operate a computer; i.e., student/teacher e-mail use, etc.

Excellent nursing program! Competent and caring nurse faculty

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Section I, # 6 [survey form]. I did not take any classes that required research and I did not have any math courses.

Good job PVCC!!!

PVCC has a great staff!! [Science and Technology professor] is a great instructor and he works hard to help his students get co-op equivalent, but shouldn't [professor] be doing that?

Co-op program should be reevaluated quickly. Improvement can be made in the Co-op program. The person that handles that program needs to organize it better. Paperwork and information on how the program works would be a benefit. Money and time could be saved. I received about five copies of the same paperwork after I turned everything in.

Tutoring hours for upper level subjects should be available in the late evening, especially since the average student age is 32.

I found the majority of the faculty to be very helpful and willing to work with students. I was impressed with their understanding and tolerance with the facts that sometimes jobs and families make it necessary to allow some flexibility in class. I did find at times, however, the Administrative/Business Office to be a little unorganized and confusing.

I had a very good experience at Piedmont. I would recommend it to anyone. The instructors were great.

Registration for courses needs to run smoother. Classes need to be made more accessible to working adults. Certain teachers need to realize adult students are working full time, plus raising families, and they need to be a little more flexible.

I would, and have, recommended PVCC to anyone seeking quality education in a mature and student friendly environment. I found the faculty to be skilled and compassionate. The student age range was wide and I appreciate the cultural diversity.

My suggestions:

--Add a full-time person to the Electronics Department, [name of professor] is stretched too thin.

--Find a good Physics instructor and pay them enough to keep them.

The Electronics classes I took were outstanding; the electives were fair.

I think that the Learning Center could use more "PR" and courses offered in the fall should also be offered in the spring.

First, I never received the initial letter to respond to the survey.

Took the automotive tech curriculum as an extracurricular activity, primarily to support a previous job as an internal sales representative for a sports car catalog company. I enjoyed my experience at PVCC and would encourage you and your staff to extend additional support and funding to the automotive program.

Offer continuing education to senior citizens.

I was satisfied with both courses and staff.

An Associate in Marketing is useless. Potential employers don't seem to think very highly of it. If a student expresses interest in the marketing field advise them to attend another school. Don't waste their time.

I wish that more emphasis were on actual transferability of classes. Also, I would like the counselors to ask the students why they want to take particular classes (possibly saving them money and time). I also did not know about some optional programs that were available.

This is the third graduate survey I have received this year. The reason I have not taken the time to fill the others out is because I'm still attending PVCC. Now, maybe, you won't send me anymore of these until I graduate.

I had a wonderful experience at PVCC. This is mainly due to the excellent faculty who kept the material interesting. I feel very lucky to have benefited from their enthusiasm. The financial aide and guidance faculty were very helpful and friendly. The building and grounds add to the pleasant environment.

While a student, I was employed through the financial aid services. This opportunity put me on my current career path.

I am grateful for the quality education available at PVCC and sincerely recommend the school for anyone and everyone considering furthering their education.